

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 JUSE-00 INSE-00 SIL-01

LAB-06 FBIE-00 AGR-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /113 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3407

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S NOTE
OF AUGUST 20

REFS: MEXICO 7114; MEXICO 7124

1. SUBJECT NOTE WHICH RESPONDS TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF JULY 26 ON THIS SUBJECT, WAS DELIVERED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE THE EVENING OF AUGUST 20. THE FONSEC STAFF ASSISTANT WHO BROUGHT THE NOTE INSISTED ON DELIVERING IT PERSONALLY TO THE AMBASSADOR. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEASED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS WHICH REPORTED ON THE NEW INITIATIVE AUGUST 21.

2. THE TEXT OF THE AUGUST 20 NOTE RECOUNTS AT SOME LENGTH EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOM TO REDUCE THE INCENTIVE FOR ILLEGAL EMIGRATION OF MEXICAN WORKERS THROUGH THE CREATION OF NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN MEXICO AND "REORGANIZAING ARGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION".

3. THIS NOTE DOES NOT IMPLY ABUSE BY US AUTHORITIES OF MEXICAN ILLEGALS BUT IT DOES ARGUE AGAINST THE APPLICA-
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TION OF "REPRESSIVE MEASURES". THE NOTE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE USG CAN EXERCISE SUCH MEASURES THROUGH APPLICA-

TION OF ITS IMMIGRATION LAWS BUT ASSERTS THAT THE RESULTS OF SUCH A COURSE HAVE IN THE PAST GIVEN RISE TO "HARMFUL AND NEGATIVE COLLATERAL EFFECTS".

4. IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE US NOTE OF JULY 26, THE FONSEC NOTE SAYS THE BEST WAY TO DISCOURAGE AND CONTROL THE ENTRY OF MEXICAN WORKERS INTO THE US IS THROUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD "MEET THE DEMAND FOR LABOR WHICH CONTINUES TO EXIST IN THE US". A NEW AGREEMENT, THE NOTE ARGUES, WOULD ALSO "FACILITATE THE SOLUTION OF THE ILLEGAL ENTRY PROBLEM".

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S NEW NOTE WAS INTENDED TO ADDRESS MEXICAN PUBLIC OPINION AT LEAST AS MUCH AS TO COMMUNICATE AGAIN WITH THE USG. THIS METHOD OF INTER-GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION OBVIOUSLY LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, RABASA'S INITIAL NOTE ON THIS SUBJECT OF JUNE 19 SIMILARLY INVOLVED AN ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS PRESS RELEASE BY THE FONSEC. OUR OWN PRESS RELEASE WAS DISCUSSED WITH RABASA BEFORE BEING MADE PUBLIC AND WAS ISSUED ONLY AFTER RABASA SAID HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO OBJECTION.

AS IS EVIDENT IN THE TEXT OF THE AUGUST 20 NOTE, THE GOM FLATLY COUNTERS THE USG VIEW THAT THERE IS ONLY A VERY LIMITED DEMAND FOR TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE US. THIS CONTRADICTION MAY BE PARTLY SEMANTIC. IT IS PROBABLY TRUE THAT THERE IS NOW AND ALWAYS WILL BE A MARKET FOR FOREIGN LABOR IN THE US AT WAGE RATES OR UNDER OTHER RELEVANT CONDITIONS INHERENTLY PROFITABLE TO US EMPLOYERS.

IN THE ABSENCE OF FIRM AND RELIABLE STATISTICAL DATA ON THE NEED FOR MEXICAN LABOR (AND THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF SUCH ILLEGAL LABOR AT PRESENT), THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE POINT IN ADDRESSING THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM IN DETAIL IN THE RESPONSE TO THE LATEST NOTE. OUR JULY 26 NOTE CONTINUES, IN THE EMBASSY VIEW, TO DESCRIBE ADEQUATELY AND IN SOME DETAIL THE US POSITION IN A FIRM BUT COURTEOUS FASHION. PERHAPS OUR RESPONSE TO THE NEW
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NOTE SHOULD SIMPLY REVERT SUCCINCTLY TO THE POINTS MADE ON JULY 26. PERHAPS THE USE OF THE TERM "REPRESSIVE MEASURES" IN THE NOTE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PASS UNCHALLENGED.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT OUR RESPONSE TO THE NEW NOTE SHOULD FOLLOW CUSTOMARY PROCEDURES AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ON THIS OCCASION RELEASE ANY STATEMENT TO THE PRESS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE

DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AND GUIDANCE ON A RESPONSE TO THE
SUBJECT NOTE.
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